

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 116

Recommending the integration of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia into the  
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 26, 2001

Mr. SHIMKUS (for himself, Mr. COX, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. WOLF, Mr. BORSKI, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. SCHAFER, Mr. HILLEARY, Mr. McNULTY, and Mr. ENGLISH) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recommending the integration of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Whereas the Baltic countries of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia are undergoing a historic process of democratic and free market transformation after emerging from decades of brutal Soviet occupation;

Whereas each of these Baltic countries has conducted peaceful transfers of political power—in Lithuania since 1990 and in Latvia and Estonia since 1991;

Whereas each of these Baltic countries has been exemplary and consistent in its respect for human rights and civil liberties;

Whereas the governments of these Baltic countries have made consistent progress toward establishing civilian control of their militaries through active participation in the Partnership for Peace program and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) peace support operations;

Whereas Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia are participating in the NATO-led multinational military force in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo;

Whereas Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia are consistently increasing their defense budget allocations and have adopted laws providing that such allocations for defense will be at least 2 percent of their gross domestic product (GDP) by 2002 for Lithuania and Estonia and by 2003 for Latvia;

Whereas each of these Baltic countries has clearly demonstrated its ability to operate with the military forces of NATO nations and under NATO standards;

Whereas former Secretary of Defense Perry stipulated five generalized standards for entrance into NATO: support for democracy, including toleration of ethnic diversity and respect for human rights; building a free market economy; civilian control of the military; promotion of good neighborly relations; and development of military interoperability with NATO;

Whereas each of these Baltic countries has satisfied these standards for entrance into NATO; and

Whereas NATO will consider at its 2002 summit meeting in Prague the further enlargement of its alliance: Now, therefore, be it

- 1        *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
- 2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that—

1           (1) Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia are to be  
2           commended for their progress toward political and  
3           economic liberty and meeting the guidelines for pro-  
4           spective members of the North Atlantic Treaty Or-  
5           ganization (NATO) set out in chapter 5 of the Sep-  
6           tember 1995 Study on NATO Enlargement;

7           (2) Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia would make  
8           an outstanding contribution toward furthering the  
9           goals of NATO should they become members;

10          (3) extension of full NATO membership to  
11          these Baltic countries would contribute to stability,  
12          freedom, and peace in the Baltic region and Europe  
13          as a whole; and

14          (4) with complete satisfaction of NATO guide-  
15          lines and criteria for membership, Lithuania, Latvia,  
16          and Estonia should be invited in 2002 to become full  
17          members of NATO.

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